

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 6-10 and 14-22 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 1-5, 12-13, and 23-26 remain cancelled. Claims 6-11, 14-22, 27, and 28 are pending and under consideration.

ALLOWED SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication on page 8 of the Office Action that claims 27 and 28 are allowed.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 6-11, 14-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0163710 to Ortiz et al. (hereinafter "Ortiz") in view of over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0010862 to Ebara ("Ebara"). Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ortiz and Ebara and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0025342 to Uchida ("Uchida").

The pending claims are amended herewith to clarify the claimed subject matter and enhance their form. No new matter is believed to be added.

According to amended independent claim 6, an authentication unit authenticates a user based on a first biometric data which can be acquired by a biometric data acquisition unit, and the biometric data output unit outputs a second biometric data, which cannot be acquired (i.e. "is not obtainable") by the biometric data acquisition unit, after the user has been authenticated.

Ortiz discloses (see FIG. 6 of Ortiz) that a user logs into an electronic system using a single biometric attribute (see step 134 in FIG. 6 of Ortiz). Once logged, in order to perform a user-desired activity, the user is required to input at least one biometric attribute of a randomly selected type (see step 142 in FIG. 6 of Ortiz). However Ortiz does not disclose "a biometric data storing unit which stores first biometric data whose kind corresponds to the biometric data acquisition unit and a second biometric data whose kind is not obtainable by the biometric data acquisition unit" as recited in amended claim 6.

Ebara discloses a biometric authentication system used by multiple enterprise systems linked by a communication network, each enterprise system storing biometric template data of registered users. (See Ebara's Abstract.) In Ebara, "a user registered with a first enterprise system can become registered with a second enterprise system by submitting biometric authentication data to the second enterprise system." The first and the second enterprise systems use the same kind of biometric authentication data. Ebara does not disclose or render

obvious that an authentication unit authenticates based on first biometric data acquired by a biometric data acquisition unit, and the biometric data output unit outputs second biometric data which is not attainable by the biometric data acquisition unit, after the user has been authenticated.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 6 and claims 7-10 depending from claim 6 patentably distinguish over the cited prior art.

In view of the above discussion of the prior art teachings, amended independent claim 11 patentably distinguishes over the prior art at least by reciting

- a biometric data storing unit which stores first biometric data whose kind corresponds to the biometric data acquisition unit, and second biometric data whose kind is not obtainable by the biometric data acquisition unit, the first biometric data and the second biometric data both being associated with the user,
- an authentication unit which authenticates the user based on the acquired biometric data and the first biometric data, and
- a biometric data output unit which outputs the second biometric data from the biometric data storing unit, after the user has been authenticated by the authentication unit.

Claims 14-22 also patentably distinguish over the prior art at least by inheriting patentable features from independent claim 11.

CONCLUSION

If there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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